

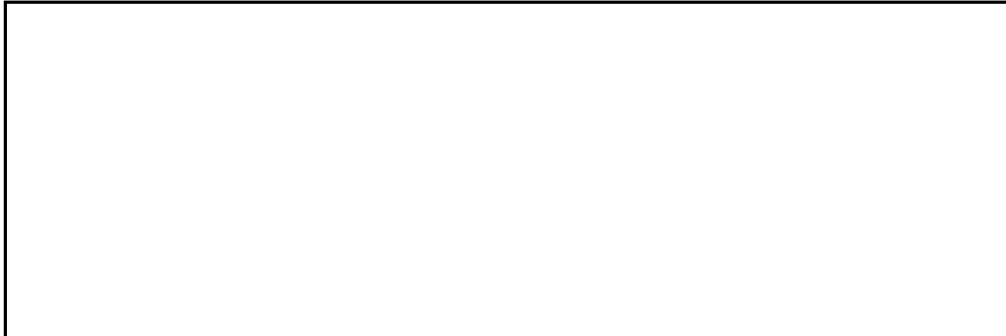
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Spanish Army Officers Arrested

The arrest Tuesday in Madrid of a Spanish army major and six captains is apparently a warning to the military to steer clear of political activity.

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Last January when political associations were legalized, the ministers of the three armed services issued a warning to the military against the impropriety of political activity by members of the armed forces on active duty. The arrest in Barcelona last February of a major and a captain--allegedly for protesting the use of the military in a police role--was another example of the government's determination to head off dissidence in the military.

The government is playing down the arrests. The Spanish military are keeping a tight lid on information concerning the arrested officers, and the press is treating the case with unusual caution. The interior ministry declared that the arrests should not be taken as evidence of serious disturbances. Nevertheless, there are rumors of possible arrests in Barcelona and Seville.

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Italian Communists and Socialists Form
Venetian Government

Venice has become the latest Italian city to acquire a Communist-Socialist government following the two parties' gains in nationwide local elections last month. Turin and Florence are among the other important cities that have come under Communist-Socialist control as a result of the elections.

Under the agreement which the two parties announced yesterday, they will form governments for both the city and province of Venice. A Socialist will get the mayor's job in Venice, and the Communists will occupy the top administrative post at the province level.

The Venetian accord is further evidence of the Socialists' preference for alliance with the Communists at the local level. The Socialists have tended to favor such arrangements even when they have the option of joining the Christian Democrats in center-left coalitions. A center-left coalition in Venice--Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats, and Republicans--would have had a slightly larger majority than the Communist-Socialist one.

Despite these accords with the Communists in various cities and provinces, the Socialists say that they want to continue their cooperation with the Christian Democrats at the national level. The Socialists insist, however, that they will not participate in a future national government that lacks "at least indirect" support from the Communists.

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